

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

The following is a listing of the claims in accordance with the requirements of the PTO. Please amend the claims as shown and add new Claims 21-24.

1. (Previously Presented) A hardening protection composition in the form of a paste, semi-liquid or liquid for partial carburization of a metallic component, comprising a substance which forms boron glass and a magnesium-silicon compound, wherein the substance which forms boron glass and the magnesium-silicon compound are present in a weight ratio of 2:1 to 100:1.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Original) The hardening protection composition according to claim 1 wherein the substance which forms boron glass and the magnesium-silicon compound are present in a weight ratio of 5:1 to 15:1.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Original) The hardening protection composition according to claim 1 wherein the substance which forms boron glass and the magnesium-silicon compound are present in a weight ratio of 10:1.

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Original) The hardening protection composition according to claim 1 wherein the magnesium-silicon compound is a magnesium silicate, selected from the group consisting of magnesium orthosilicate (Mg_2SiO_4), magnesium metasilicate (MgSiO_3), magnesium trisilicate ($\text{Mg}_2\text{Si}_3\text{O}_8$) and talc.

8. (Original) The hardening protection composition according to claim 1 wherein the magnesium-silicon compound is magnesium trisilicate.

9. (Previously Presented) The hardening protection composition according to claim 1 wherein the substance that forms boron glass is boric acid, boron oxide, alkali metal and/or alkaline earth metal borates.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Original) The hardening protection composition according to claim 9, comprising based on the total amount, 40-55 wt.% boron oxide, 3-6 wt.% magnesium trisilicate and 39-57 wt.% of an organic binder.

12. (Original) The hardening protection composition according to claim 11, comprising, based on the total amount, 45 wt.% boron oxide, 5 wt.% magnesium trisilicate and 50 wt.% of an organic binder.

13. (Original) The hardening protection composition according to claim 10, comprising, based on the total amount, 45 wt.% boron oxide, 5 wt.% magnesium trisilicate and 50 wt.% of an organic binder.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for surface hardening of metal surface comprising applying to at least a portion of said surface a composition comprising a substance in the form of a paste, semi-liquid or liquid which forms boron glass and a magnesium-silicon compound in a weight ratio of 2:1 to 100:1, and thereafter subjecting said surface to a surface hardening treatment.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 14 wherein said surface hardening treatment is carburization at 900-980 °C.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 14 further comprising there being present in said composition an organic binder.

17.-18. (Cancelled).

19. (Previously Presented) A hardening protection composition in the form of a paste, semi-liquid or liquid for partial carburization of a metallic component, comprising a substance

which forms boron glass and a magnesium-silicon compound, wherein the substance which forms boron glass and the magnesium-silicate compound are present in a weight ratio of 2:1 to 100:1, said magnesium silicate compound is selected from the group consisting of magnesium orthosilicate (Mg_2SiO_4), magnesium metasilicate (MgSiO_3), magnesium trisilicate ($\text{Mg}_2\text{Si}_3\text{O}_8$) and talc.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for surface hardening of metal surface comprising applying to at least a portion of said surface a composition comprising a substance in the form of a paste, semi-liquid or liquid which forms boron glass and a magnesium-silicate compound in a weight ratio of 2:1 to 100:1, and thereafter subjecting said surface to a surface hardening treatment, said magnesium silicate compound being selected from the group consisting of magnesium orthosilicate (Mg_2SiO_4), magnesium metasilicate (MgSiO_3), magnesium trisilicate ($\text{Mg}_2\text{Si}_3\text{O}_8$) and talc.

21. (New) A hardening protection composition in the form of a paste, semi-liquid or liquid for partial carburization of a metallic component with reduced risk of run off and reduced vapor pressure, comprising a substance which forms boron glass and a magnesium-silicon compound, wherein the substance which forms boron glass and the magnesium-silicate compound are present in a weight ratio of 2:1 to 100:1, said magnesium silicate compound is selected from the group consisting of magnesium orthosilicate (Mg_2SiO_4), magnesium metasilicate (MgSiO_3), magnesium trisilicate ($\text{Mg}_2\text{Si}_3\text{O}_8$) and talc.

22. (New) A method for surface hardening of metal surface by partial carburization comprising applying to at least a portion of said surface a composition comprising a substance in the form of a paste, semi-liquid or liquid which forms boron glass and a magnesium-silicate compound in a weight ratio of 2:1 to 100:1, and thereafter subjecting said surface to a surface hardening treatment, said magnesium silicate compound being selected from the group consisting of magnesium orthosilicate (Mg_2SiO_4), magnesium metasilicate (MgSiO_3), magnesium trisilicate ($\text{Mg}_2\text{Si}_3\text{O}_8$) and talc, whereby the risk of run off of the said substance and the vapour pressure can be reduced.

23. (New) The method according to claim 22, where the partial carburization is vacuum carburization.

24. (New) The method according to claim 22, which is carried out in a reduced pressure carburization plant.